



For Immediate Release
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HAWAII CONVENES PREMIER HOMELAND SECURITY SUMMIT FOR ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

*Top Government, Business and Security Leaders to Meet at First-Ever Summit in
Honolulu, Hawaii, on November 19-21, 2003*

HONOLULU – The **Inaugural Asia Pacific Homeland Security Summit & Exposition** will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village from November 19-21, 2003. The Summit is being jointly organized by the State of Hawaii Department of Defense, Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT), and the Office of the Governor, in collaboration with the U.S. Pacific Command, the US-ASEAN Business Council, the Pacific Basin Economic Council, the East West Center and the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies.

“The Summit will give Hawaii a chance to showcase some of the ‘best practices’ we have developed in the area of homeland security,” said Governor Linda Lingle. “It will also enhance awareness of cultural sensitivities that have to be taken into consideration when managing security issues throughout Asia-Pacific. One of the goals will be to facilitate information sharing so that governments and business can interface seamlessly and manage homeland security threats in a coordinated manner.”

The Summit will provide information for government and corporate leaders to develop strategies and methods to meet the new security challenges, such as critical infrastructure protection, promoting secure commerce and trade, defending against weapons of mass destruction and protecting the public’s health.

The Inaugural Asia Pacific Homeland Security Summit will include the participation of government leaders, senior corporate executives, technology experts, world-renowned scholars and other distinguished leaders, through a special, invitation-only track. More than 500 attendees are expected. A special track, for senior leaders and executives from the region, will be limited to the first 250 participants.

The theme of the meeting is *"Homeland Security: Developing Public and Private Sector Solutions for the Asia-Pacific Region."* Confirmed speakers include Admiral Thomas Fargo, Commander of U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM); James Woolsey, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and vice president of Booz Allen Hamilton; Wong Kan Seng, Singapore's Minister of Home Affairs; Ambassador Crecensio Arcos, Director of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of International Affairs; Lieutenant General William Lennox, Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; and world renown Al-Qaeda and terrorism expert Dr. Rohan Gunaratna of Singapore's Institute of Defense & Strategic Studies.

Other invited speakers include ministers with responsibility for national security or commerce from Singapore, Australia, the Philippines, South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan and China.

The Summit will be an ideal forum for developing collective solutions to public and private sector security threats in the Asia-Pacific region. The specific sessions are designed to maximize participant interaction and will stimulate new ideas and innovative approaches through a combination of keynote addresses, plenary forums, and roundtable discussions. Hawaii's unique homeland security resources, training and technology exports will also be presented. The Summit will also allow a unique networking opportunity to explore areas for joint ventures, out-sourcing and other business possibilities for corporate executives.

In addition, the exposition will provide a tremendous opportunity for business leaders to showcase their products and services.

A detailed program schedule, guest speakers and details on all discussion tracks are available at www.scd.state.hi.us/summit.

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